President since a report was last made to the House on the 11th June, 1996 :-

1. The Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 1996;
2. The Appropriation (Vote on Account) No.2 Bill, 1996;
3. The Appropriation (Railways) No. 3 Bill, 1996;
4. The Supreme Courts and High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 1996;
5. The Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 1996;
6. The Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 1996;
7. The Arbitration and Conciliation Bill, 1996; and
8. The Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Bill, 1996.

[English]

(Interruptions)

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andman and Nicobar Islands) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today, it is the birthday of Mother Teresa. She is ailing, and she is under treatment. Let us pray for her quick and speedy recovery.

MR. SPEAKER : On behalf of the House, I wish her a speedy recovery.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : A large number of people were killed in this Amarnath tragedy. But the Governor including all his officers were here in Delhi for the last three days. What was the Government doing in Delhi for the last three days?...*(Interruptions)* I sent three communications...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, we have an adjournment motion on it.

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR (Baramulla) : The Government should have come forward itself and made a statement.

[English]

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (Pune) : Sir, the Amarnath tragedy is a very serious issue and that must be discussed here.

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Well, hon. Members, I have received a number of notices on this unfortunate incident in Amarnath. I had referred to it during the obituary reference. We should find out a way to discuss about this. In fact, as I said, I have received a lot of notices. I will allowed one by one to speak on this. Let us not go into the debate now because we will find out a way to discuss about it.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly say something about Mother Teresa. She is undergoing treatment in a Calcutta Hospital.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, I think, on behalf of the House, we will wish her a speedy recovery.

12.05 hrs.

RE: TRAGEDY DURING AMARNATH YATRA

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry. In this morning where you have expressed condolences on the death of a former hon Member, you have also expressed condolences on the death of these people who went on a pilgrimage to Amarnath. But the question is not only to express condolences, we want to express our resentment. Is it fury of nature or some sort of human failure is involved in it? Therefore, we have given adjournment motion in this respect. Our adjournment motion fulfil all the conditions of rules. It is also important under which rules discussion will take place. We would like to stress and request you to allow us to move adjournment motion and given an opportunity to criticise the Government.

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do wish to emphasise why we have moved an adjournment Motion. The Leader of the Opposition has pointed out one thing. In fact, it is very unusual and exceptional that the Chair expresses collective grief and conveys collective condolence from the chair itself. One such occasion was today when you are persuaded to do it of your own. We had also pleaded with you that such collective expression of grief be expressed by this House. There are no other reasons to seek an Adjournment Motion. This in itself would amount to conceding our demand that our Motion for Adjournment be admitted.

As the Motion itself says, it is a grim human tragedy of unprecedented dimensions. In turn, what are these dimensions? That is why, this is directly related to the question why and Adjournment Motion should be accepted. Till today, as of now, even while we are discussing this, over 150,000 pilgrims have been abandoned to their fate in a mountainous terrain in most adverse weather conditions. Of the almost 350 kms. of road and track, at least a hundred Kilometres of that is purely mountainous track. We are not unmindful of certain other things. Our complaint is not about the

adverse weather. Our complaint and the reason why we wish to move an Adjournment Motion is about official apathy. Governmental insensitivity and total incompetence in planning adequate preparations and thereafter taking care to provide timely succour and relief to the pilgrims who were abandoned there. This is unforgivable because, as of today, even while we are doing this, the sense of urgency that should be governing the Government action is totally absent. Those who are familiar with the terrain would know that at Panchtarani, which is in excess of 15,000 feet, pilgrims are still abandoned. There are pilgrims abandoned at Seshnag. There are about 70,000 pilgrims today at Pahalgam. The important point is that Pahalgam has in no capacity to absorb 70,000 people. If you put 70,000 pilgrims in Pahalgam, that in itself creates problems. The Government is totally unmindful of this. There are no accurate figures of the dead. There are differences between the figures that are being spoken of by the official and the non-official agencies. The disparity in the numbers. Report coming to us from our representatives from that area, from the unofficial agencies, from other agencies and from the pilgrims themselves show these variation. The reports vary from 200 to many multiples of deaths that have taken places. There are reports that 400 bodies have already been conveyed to Srinagar. The casualty evacuation has been laggard. I had instructions from my Leader. I had to to do it myself. I was there. Between yesterday and day before, I tried to contact everyone concerned with this. I tried to contact the Prime Minister. I would informed that Prime Minister was away in U.P.

I tried to contact the Home Minister. I was informed that the Home Minister was away in Calcutta. I tried to contact the Defence Minister. He was away elsewhere. I tried to contact even the Railway Minister because there is a direct linkage of rail relief. But the Railway Minister was also absent. And most unforgivable, the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir who is directly responsible for the governance of that State on behalf of the Government of India, when this enormous tragedy was unfolding itself, was content to stay and be in Delhi for three days. And the Governor did not find it necessary to go back to Srinagar..*(Interruptions)* No simply that. The hon. Home Minister was in the Valley on the 22nd of August. The *yatra* had already started on 22nd of August. The Home Minister made references to every other responsibility that he has. We do not object to those reference. But he did not find it necessary to make even one reference to the *yatra*. He did not find it necessary to at least supervise, to enquire about the preparation that had been made. Because all these attempts made by me personally to contact each of them failed, that is why, we again assert that you should accept our Adjournment Motion.

I give just three or four additional reasons why it should be accepted. The Army was not called out in time to provide relief and support to the abandoned pilgrims. And the Army in turn was not called out because there was simply no one in Jammu and Kashmir to officially call the Army out. There was not one even to make that request to the Armed Forces. The Chief Secretary, I am informed, was also absent. The casualty evacuations from there where deaths have taken place and the figures that are being given are all wrong. I am informed that 2000 people were heli-lifted from Panchtarni to Baltal. It is practically impossible - 2000 people to be lifted from Panchtarni to Baltal involves both ways one hour's flight by helicopters at least. You cannot lift more than 16 people at a time. And if 2000 people were lifted, you would have to really deploy the entire helicopters of the Air Force. These wrong figures are being propounded.

Look at the question of relief trains. I got in touch with our representative in Udhampur. I tried to get in touch with the Railway Minister. Finally, I succeeded in getting in touch with the only officer available, he was the Union Home Secretary. I was informed that a railway train was placed in Jammu to enable people from Jammu to move out on the evening of the 24th. Then I am informed that there were not enough *yatris* to move away. I find it amazing when 150,000 people have been told that the *yatra* is abandoned and they are being asked to come away that there was no one in the relief train to move out. This is a canard that is being spread because what has brought this about is the Government's announcement saying, "*yatra* is cancelled: *yatra* is taking place again *yatra* is cancelled." And just one relief train for 150,000 pilgrims to be moved out, I think the Union Home Minister and Union Railway Minister ought to reflect on this.

In addition to all these points, why do we say that the Adjournment Motion ought to be admitted is because never in the living memory has the *yatra* of the *chhadi mubarak* to Amarnath Cave been abandoned in this fashion. It has never happened in living memory that before *Raksha Bandhan*, the *yatra* is abandoned and the *yatries* are asked to move back. Now today we are informed over radio that the plans are being made to carry the *chhadi mubarak* by helicopter to the Amarnath cave. This is an unprecedented human tragedy. In living memory, it has never happened that Amarnath *yatra* is abandoned in this fashion and the *chhadi mubarak* is carried to the cave simply in a helicopter. If this is not a failure, I do not know what is the failure. And it is because of this failure, this callousness and this incompetence, we request you to concede our demand for an Adjournment Motion because if this Government is not to be castigated and chastised for this failure, then what are we to castigate them about?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, at the very outset, I would like to express my unhappiness.

You called the meeting. We discussed something. And, we thus agree to do something. But after coming here, the contrary happens. Shri Jaswant Singhji was

present in the meeting. Shri Jena and Shri Paswanji were also present there...*(Interruptions)*... It was discussed and told that 'the Home Minister had gone there. He will come back and give a statement before the House.' Now, we have heard from Shri Jaswant Singhji, what he has done.

As far as I am concerned, I could contact the Prime Minister as well as Shri Jenaji, we expressed our worries and sorrows and we wanted to know what was happening there. We were told that the Home Minister had been rushed to the spot. After coming back, he would give a Statement before this august House.

He have got elected Members from Kashmir here. They have said and Shri Dasmunsi and others have also said that because people from all over the country have gone there on pilgrimage, it is not an issue of Kashmir only. There is some lapse somewhere. What is that lapse? Unless we hear from the Home Minister, I do not want to rush to conclusion like Shri Jaswant Singhji. I am not an expert of it. It seems that this Party is an expert in everything. They came to the conclusion before hand. But the fact remains, that is next. Whether *yatra* is continuing...*(Interruptions)* .

SHRI B.L. SHRAMA 'PREM' (East Delhi) : What do you want to convey?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please, sit down. I will come to you also.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : This is an example of insensitiveness of the Government and also an example as to how their supporters hindering other persons to speak is this way...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, I did not disturb Shri Jaswant Singhji or Shri Vajpayeeji. They had got every right to say and I have also got every right to say.

What I want to say is, I beg to differ with him only on one point...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to him.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : We have read about it in the newspapers also.

I think, the para-military forces and various voluntary organisations have done tremendously good job otherwise the death toll would have been even more. A lacuna was from the Government side. We are also equally unhappy to hear that the Governor was in Delhi to have a dinner with the Prime Minister. That has been told in the newspapers, we do not know as to how far it is correct.

But we firmly believe that this incident could have been avoided. Pilgrimage is taking place there for years together; it is not a new thing. In the past also, such weather could have been there and action was taken in the past also by the appropriate authorities. It has been written in either. The *Hindustan Times* or *The Times of India*.

So, Sir, we want a threadbare discussions on this issue. All Members from Kashmir and other parts also, want to participate. And, as it had been decided in your Chamber, I will request, first, let the Government say that information they have got from the appropriate authorities till now and fix up the matter by which we can discuss this issue.

Sir, we are against the Adjournment Motion. The discussion should be under Rule 193. In everything the Adjournment Motion is too much. So, we do not want it. I would request you, first you please allow our Kashmiri Members to speak on this issue one by one ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Do not be impatient. I will call you also.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday in the night an announcement was made about these numbers on T.V. that anyone who wants information in regard to Kashmir should did these numbers on telephone...*(Interruptions)* when I dialled these numbers on telephone, I found that it pertains to some private persons...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I did not ask you to give telephone numbers. No, nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : It is a matter of national tragedy and we are all extremely sorry for it. The whole country is grieving on this very tragic incident. This is not a matter which should be politicised, I submit very respectfully. No doubt this House should discuss this issue, but on proper information and materials available. As we have been informed, the hon. Home Minister is already there. I hope he has been able to reach there because the weather should be favourable. He is expected to come back today and the Government has assured us that he will make a comprehensive statement after his retrun. Therefore, I think this House should discuss a matter of national tragedy on proper materials available to it, so that there can be an effective discussion. Suggestions can be given. The Government owes an explanation; it is its boundened duty to give that explanation.

My request is, in a matter of national tragedy, which has persuaded you rightly, if I may say so, to make a mention in the obituary statement that you have made,

* Not Recorded.

the House should not be divided. the country should not be divided. Let us take it seriously: give suggestions to the Government; pull up the Government: the Government has to be pulled up: there is no question of exonerating anybody; if there are lapses. people should suffer. Therefore. my appeal to everybody is. let us wait for the Home Minister's return as he is expected today and let us have a meaningful discussion on the basis of materials available.

So far as our sympathies are concerned, we are extending our fullest sympathies. On behalf of my party I am sure everyone will join me in conveying our sincere sorrow and condolence to the members of the bereaved families. Let us hope that this House will unitedly deal with the issue without being divided. That is my submission.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you might recall that I had raised the issue of Amarnath pilgrimage earlier also. At that time the hon. Prime Minister was also sitting here and I told him about it. Shri Chatterjee has just said that Amarnath pilgrimage is a pilgrimage of a whole country. This symbolises the unity and integrity of the country. People bring water from Rameshwaram and offer to lord Amarnath. At that time I also had said that a cup of tea was being sold upto Rs. 15. During pilgrimage time people have to pay Rs. two hundred as hiring a blanket.

This is on record. At that time I raised this issue and requested the Government to make some arrangement before hand. This time also it was a record pilgrimage. On the one hand there was a challenge of militants and on the other hand the country had accepted this challenge. About one and a haly lakhs piligrims had reached Jammu on 16th. You can well imagine under these circumstances how the Government took the pilgrims so casually. Today there is no semblance of administration in the Government of Kashmir and they were given charge of managing this pilgrimage. The management of this pilgrimage was given to the D.C. Anantnag. Whatever staff they had. they were not willing to extend cooperation. Neither you had sent additional staff there who would have managed the work.

Mr. Speaker, Sir. we all know that vehicles can go upto Pahalgam. Thereafter, the journey of 50 Kilometres is very different. Pissu valley falls in between. The pilgrims have to reach to the height of 15 thousand feet. All the regions of Shesnag. Panchtarni are snow covered completely. I would like to tell you that the Government had made arrangement of only twenty thousand people.

About one and half lakhs pilgrims reached there but, no management was seen there. There was no person to look after them.

Even now the state of confusion is there. The weather becomes bad on 22nd. Earlier also the weather used to become bad but no one made plan to tackle the situation caused in high altitudes. The forces had arrangements for it but there was no planning. With result when the weather became bad, the pilgrims got stranded and a state of confusion prevailed. There was no control room in Jammu even till date. Yesterday on 25th it was announced in the 2 o'clock radio bulletin that a control room has been set up in Srinagar. News of death of pilgrims started coming from 22nd and the control room was set up on 25th at Srinagar. You can well imagine what the administration was doing there. It was announced on 24th that Yatra would not be allowed to proceed further and special trains have been but into service. After this. 15 thousand yatris reached there because the train was to start return journey at 11.30 in the night.

12.27 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker *in the chair*)

But, I would tell you that there was no train upto 1.30 in the night. All the yatris were harassed. Even there is news in today's news papers. That 8 trains have been sent there but I can say with guarantee that not a single special train has run from there. How it would have run? On the one hand announcement is being made that Yatra has been postponed and on the other the Governor reached there from here only yesterday. He reached there after waiting for a party here for three days. You would be surprised to know that even the Divisional Commissioner is not available in Jammu. The Chief Secretary of Kashmir is passing his time here. So many people are dying there but no one is there except Saklani we know his capacity. We also know how he was dealing with things there. There was not a single such person who would contact the army and called them there. Hon. Deputy Speaker. Sir. the Government have greatly minimised this yatra and underestimated it. With the result that this has happened.

This is a fine example of secularism about which the Government talk of much. The offerings in Amarnath is divided into three share. One share goes to the priests at the temple. Second goes to the mahants who carry Charri Mubark to the care and the third share goes to the muslim brother Malik. This is so sacred journey that we are surprised to hear what the Government is saying.

We are told that there is another route through Baltal. They are saying that dead bodies are being brought by helicopter. It is in my knowledge that 60 bodies have been cremated. The bodies found on route are being cremated. There is no arrangement there to send dead bodies to their near ones. I would say that the more the Government is condemned the less it is.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the Government through you that the Government itself make arrangement to send the dead bodies to their families

because they have no money to carry the dead bodies through planes. So, it is the responsibility of the Government to make arrangement to bring the dead bodies. The Government should also make a arrangement to give them relief immediately. The situation is such there that neither medicines nor food is being supplied. Other State Governments are sending food packets there. There is scarcity of fuel and blankets are also not available. These things should be supplied there immediately. The road between Jammu and Kashmir has been completely damaged at the moment. If this work is left for the Government of Kashmir it is unlikely to be completed in a month. This is the only way to link the rest of the country. This should be repaired on war footing. This is my submission. Taking these things into consideration the Government have failed miserably. So our Adjournment motion should be accepted so that it is debated in the House ...*(Interruptions)*.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : The Central Government is responsible for it because the President's rule is imposed there.

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA (Jammu) : Hon. Deputy Speaker. Sir. I fully share with the sentiments expressed by hon. Members here on this great tragedy of Amarnath. Yatris belonging to different parts of the country are there. The people of the country want to know the welfare of their near relatives, family members and near and dear ones and where they are at present. There is no such information centre at Delhi. Jammu and Srinagar from where people may come to know the names and address of those persons who are dead also those who have survived and in what condition they are?

Those who are in hospitals. what is their condition and in which hospital they are admitted. I think that the people of the whole country are very anxious and they want to know about the condition of their brothers and relations. Firstly the Government of Jammu and Kashmir should be instructed to find out in detail about the persons who are dead and also those who are admitted in the hospitals. The country should know where they are held up.

This incident has not happened for the first time. The same incident had happened in 1973 and the weather turned inclement. At that time about 100 pilgrims were dead. As this is not the first incident so the incharge administration of Jammu and Kashmir and the planners of this pilgrimage should have planned it in such a way keeping in view the possibility of inclement weather that if the weather turns hostile the pilgrims will be supplied woollen clothes. blankets and arrangements for their lodging and boarding will be made but. such plan was not formulated. Plan was made keeping this in view that less number of pilgrims will undertake the yatra and the weather will remain good. This is said reflection. The State administration is responsible for it. Lakhs of people have been hurt with the planning and arrangements. There due to which valuable lives had lost. The whole house is sad over it. Everyone is concerned with it. We have sympathy with the near ones of those people who have lost their lives. We want that better arrangement be made to rescue those still stranded there. Train services should be arranged so as to help them to reach to their homes. The Jammu-Srinagar route should be opened immediately. Money should be provided to those people who lack. If even to buy tickets. Medical facility should be provided to the sick people. Had our Armed Forces and Air Force not come forward to provide help them a big tragedy would have struck and more people than this would have died. I take this occasion to pay my compliments to Armed Forces. Air Force. B.S.F. and personnel of administration. Terrorists had declared that they won't allow the yatra but the Kashmiri people did not allow their plan to succeed. As terrorists failed to do any misclief, it shows that the people of Kashmir particularly the muslim brethren want peace in Hindustan and in the State and are giving cooperation to the Government. I appreciate their role. But whatever failure has taken place. it should be enquired into and the guilty persons should be punished. The stranded people should be rescued and treatment should be given to the sick. The people of the country should be informed where there relatives. friends and near and dears ones are. and how they are and in which condition they are? I think the whole House should condemn this and the people who are responsible for it and also for failure of administration should be punished so that this thing does not happen again. Proper arrangement should be made for the people to undertake yatra. Besides. the Congress Members have given notice under rule 188 which may be taken up for discussion.

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : Mr. Deputy Speaker. Sir it is a national tragedy. Even if 50 per cent of what Shri Jaswant Singh and Shri Chaman Lalji have said in this House is correct. it indicates that the Government was not only insensitive to the situation that may develop because of bad weather. but even after the tragedy. the Government was callous and so. it should be charged for dereliction of duty.

None can expect that after such a great tragedy. the Governor could remain in the capital city of Delhi. He will find no reason to go to Jammu or to Srinagar, wherever it was possible. to manage the affairs there. One should try to know from the Government what were the pressing reasons for the Governor to remain in Delhi and why did all the officer of the Kashmir not rush to the spot? Why did the people responsible in the Government of India including the Prime Minister and the Home Minister not think it proper to cancel their programmes and go to that spot? There was no other pressing problem; and I know that the Government is

not busy in taking any crucial decision which will determine the destiny of the nation. where they should not have taken note of this tragedy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker. Sir, it is an emotional issue. I shall like to request the hon. Leader of Opposition not to make it a partisan issue. But may I urge upon the Prime Minister that he should rise to the occasion and he should not try to give *alibis* to all the things that happened there. It is a situation in which all of us should unitedly try to find out where were the lapses. who were the people responsible: and they should not be spared. I have no grudge against any individual: I do not know about the 'fires'. But. Sir. nothing can be more shameful and degrading for a nation than what has happened. Natural tragedies do take place and we should be ready to face it. But what Shri Chaman Lalji has said was shocking that after three or four days only they were able to have a control room there. It is done within hours. whenever tragedy occurs. When a tragedy like this happens. what was the Government doing for three days? Why were the Defence Forces not put on alert and asked to start the control room immediately. within hours?

Sir. I do not want to make it a political issue. but I think. this is the worst that can be expected of the Kashmir Government: and if I say the same about the Government here. it shall not be out of place. I think. if the Home Minister make the statement. he should come ready with the answers to the questions raised by Jaswant Singh and by Shri Chaman Lalji. Only than a fruitful discussion can there on this issue.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahaad) : Hon. Deputy Speaker. Sir. this is such a tragedy for which the whole House is concerned with one voice. The question of making it a political issue does not arise and neither the leader of the opposition nor Shri Jaswant Singh have tried to give it a political colour and neither they will try to give this tragedy a political colour. This is a national tragedy and it should be discussed in that perspective. It is noteworthy that limits for the tregady were coming in advance. I recall that our hon. Minister of Home Affairs had gives an assurance in the House that he would take adequate security precautions and would make better arrangement than before. I vividly remember when Shri Chaman Lalji raised this question for the first time. the hon Home Minister gave reply in the form of this assurance. I would like to know what steps have been taken by the Home Ministry and Kashmir Government after this assurance. In which way they have taken this assurance and what type of arrangement they have made there. I have been receiving news since yesterday and I told the Home Secretary that the toll of dead is not just 120 or 160. It can exceed the figure of 400 or 500. I received a call in the morning that people have see more than 400 and about 500 dead bodies and it was told that a number of dead bodies were being cremated. They are not being identified and no information is being given to their family members.

12.41 hrs.

(Mr. Speaker *in the chair*)

I have received telephone calls from nearly 60-70 places since yesterday till date. The people are worried where are their family members and they have no information about it. They cannot go there. Those persons cannot be brought here who had gone their for the pilgrimage. Under these circumstances if we stop all the business and discuss this tragedy than it will not be wrong. But Shri Chandra Shekharji has said that the Home Minister has gone there and if the Home Minister and the Government want to say something. they should tell. We would like to know the response of the Government on this issue? It is very regretable that when our leader and Deputy leader of the opposition gave notice for adjournment motion then the Government should have atleast present here to give its information but we are said that no attention has been paid towards it. Not only the Kashmir Government but I think even the Central Government is insensitive towards this matter. I was informed there that those persons who want to return are being demanded certificates to the effect by the railway department personnel that they are returning due to road blockade. Their reservation was for five-six days beyond i.e. for 28th. When they were informed of the cancellation of Yatra they started returning. When they go to the railway counter to purchase ticket, they are told at the railway counter to give certificates to the effect that they are returning due to the closure of the road only then, they will give seat to them. On the one hand they say that they are running trains and on the other hand we are getting such information. I don't know how an officer can take such a decision. It is a sign of total insensitiveness that on the one hand people die there, get stranded. weather becomes inclement and they would like to return but the Government could not make arrangement. This is a matter of great concern.

Mr. Speaker. Sir. I would request you to consider this question purely from national perspective. As Shri Chaman Lalji has stated this yatra is a symbol of unity and integrity of India, of brotherhood and of enterprise and courage. Lakhs of people have reached Kashmir which is struck by terrorism. If you do not make arrangement for them you are affronting their courage and commitment towards India. Lakhs of people have come from Rameshwaram and are going to Amarnath via Srinagar and Anantnag with sentiments for the motherland in their heart and are going there to sacrifice their everything for the unity and integrity of the country and are accepting the challenge. I am very sorry to state that the Government did not responded to their

sentiments but rather have affronted it. So I would like that serious discussion should take place on this issue. It would be better if we discuss the adjournment motion brought forward by Shri Jaswant Singhji. We should stop all business of the House and consider the whole problem from purely national perspective. We should punish those who are responsible for this happening and ensure that such things do not take place in future.

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR (Baramula) : Hon Speaker. Sir. we four members belong to the valley and we had requested you in the morning that a discussion should take place on the serious tragedy that accrued during Amarnath Yatra even if the question hour is to be suspended for it. I think there is no difference in making request or in bringing adjournment motion or raising it in zero hour. You have given a ruling on it that discussion can take place on it so. there should be a discussion on it.

I am not well versed with the rules. After this bringing adjournment motion during for discussion or the way of moving it was not correct. This tragedy has no link with any particular community. Those who are Shiv devotees generally go to Amarnath Yatra every year. The historical background of Amarnath Yatra does not go back to thousand years. A muslim lambardar Malik had located this cave during the period of Maharaja Pratap Singh and brought it to the notice of Maharaja. From that time carrying and bringing back Chhari Mubarak started. Due to the snow the shivling takes shape for 15 days and when the snow melts. it comes down in another 15 days. We have great reverance for it. As Prof. Chaman Lal Gupta has said that the income that is accured from Amarnath Yatra is distributed among panch of Pattan, Malik and Mahant. There are two ways to go there. One way is from Pahalgam and another is from Baltal on the road to Kargil. This is the short route and the number of yatris from here is steadily increasing for the last 40 years but they have not constructed a road for which the Government and we are responsible. Generally the yatra starts from Pahalgam. Previously Chhari Mubarak used to be carried from Srinagar. but for year of terrorists and militancy Chhari Mubarak is now taken from Jammu. I understand a number of serious incidents have taken place for the last seven years. I do not want to raise political issue here. Two years ago about hundred people died due to the blizzard and a number of vehicles got stranded. No one took actives against the administration. The national highway remains closed for three months in a year but there is no metalled road. In this scientific era we could not construct road from Pahalgam to the cave. We could not make arrangement for the pilgrims. I regard it as a tragedy for the entire country. Today the whole country is greatly concerned. About 1 lakh yatries have come. You may by taking into the political consideration bring the adjournment motion and pass it, condemn the Government or condemn the Government of Kashmir but I think before giving judgement this should be investigated fully A CID enquiry should be got conducted and enquiry against those people should be held who are responsible for it.

Yatris are dying there but it does not move the Governor. The big leaders have said here so many times that the Governor should be removed from here. I understand in our time also there had been great demand and we demand today also that this arrogant Governor who is holding this post should be removed. He should be punished. There will be a feeling among the people that the Central Government is going to take action. The stranded yatris should be rescued and arrangement for providing food to them be made. There a plate of dal is available for Rs. 25. A cup of tea is being sold at Rs. 5 to 10. They have no clothes and no shelter to stay. I think it is very Shameful. Instead we make it a political issue. I want the hon. Home Minister give a Statement and highlight their weaknesses. He should not hide them. I would request the opposition leader Shri Vajpayee ji that instead of making it a partisan issue. he should make it a national issue. Discussion on it can only take place when we get material from the Government. I fully understand the sentiments of Prof. Chaman lal Gupta. The sentiments of the people there and of every Kashmiri are so hurt that every taximan. bus driver and other people around talk of it. Not only Hindus but Muslims render help. Inspite of the militancy which has been going on there for the last so many years. So many people came forward to help in the yatra. Our people have welcomed it. the Muslims have welcomed it. The Home Minister should come here and make a Statement and those persons should be removed from there who are responsible for it.

I had said two years before that three army generals and a Post Master are ruling there. After a week. elections are going to be held there this month. Since Kashmir budget is being presented tomorrow so I would like to speak a few words on its but we should have information. When new Government assumes responsibility there. it should make Amarnath yatra comfortable. There should be arrangement for provisions. hotels. lodging and this can happen only when a responsible Government assumes charge there. So I want that the adjournment motion should be withdrawn and some unanimous decision should be taken on this issue for the sake of national unity and make this yatra easy. We should protect the sanctity of this cave and effort should be made that not only Hindu Shiv devotees but other people also who are not Shiv devote and Muslims should visit that place. This yatra should be held as a gesture of national unity. Shri Vajpayeeji I will request this to you. I think there is no need to move the adjournment motion. I agree that carelessness has taken place and we are sorry for it. Our heads hang in Shame. We should discuss this issue in detail. With these words. I conclude.

[English]

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK (Aska) : Mr. Speaker. Sir. a lot of discussion has taken place on this issue. if this is an issue. Blizzards take place every time when there is a fall in temperature. It has taken place all over the world: it has taken place here. Unfortunately. it was a very severe blizzard. People who go to Amarnath are quite used to adverse weather. but they were not used to this sort of an attack of a blizzard.

What is required of the Government now. if I may suggest. is to ensure that these pilgrims are properly evacuated. No tickets. no fare. and nothing should be charged from them. And it should be seen that they are totally evacuated. I request the hon. Minister of Railways. who is sitting here. to ensure that. Secondly. I request the hon. Prime Minister - whatever has happened. has happened. we can now lay blame on one or the other - that for the future there should be a national highway going right up to the shrine. By stages. proper accommodation should be provided to the pilgrims. and proper care should be taken. After all. this is a national affair and pilgrims come from all over the country. From Pahalgam up to the shrine a proper road system should be developed. Proper arrangements for the protection of *yatris*, in the event of another blizzard, should also be made.

Whatever discussion will take place. will take place in due course. but these are almost like fire-fighting arrangements that I have suggested.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (Outer Delhi) : Mr. Speaker. Sir. I would like to say only one or two points and would take a little time. I would like to know that when the tragedy struck on 22nd. where were the Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister at that time and to whom they contacted immediately and from which sources they derived information? Whenever the Amarnath Yatra and the elections in Jammu and Kashmir were held sucessfully. the Government took all its credit. It was duly and publicly stated that Home Ministry has expressed its unhappiness that why the Governor was here and the response of the state Government there was inadequate. I do not regard that the responsibility lies with the State Government only but the Central Government is mainly responsible for it. The Prime Minister and the hon. Home Minister must given its clarification.

Secondly the Governor. Chief Secretary were staying in Delhi at that time. Was it not necessary for the P.M.O. or the Prime Minister or the Home Minister to give instruction to them to go back immediately. Do you know that the Chief Secretary is still here? I do not know whether he has gone or not. When they were here. there was no one to give them instruction that such a big tragedy has taken place so they should go back. It would be better that an enquiry commission is constituted under the leadership of the leader of the opposition. a Committee of the House be constituted in which there are 4-5 main leaders. They should go there and see what lapses have taken place. They should see whether the Central Government or the State Government is responsible for it. The State Government is already helpless there. The D.C. of Anantnag has nothing to do there.

I would also like to know under whose command the Air Force and the Army carried out the work? Who was guiding them? Why not a Central room could be established in Jammu. Delhi or Srinagar?

I do not subscribe to the views of Chandra Shekhar ji in regard to the adjournment motions that whatever matter is raised it may be called partisan. After all there is some way to raise matter. Will anything raised in the Adjournment motion be regarded as partisan? What does it mean? If a way is found out of criticize the Government. it cannot be called partisan and it is not proper to define it in this way. When all members here agreed that discussion on it should take place them why discussions should not be allowed to take place under adjournment motion?

Secondly, the Government should take the responsibility of handing over the dead bodies to their families and give them compensation. I have come to know that the Prime Minister has announced to give Rs. 50 Thousand to the dependents of the dead persons. I would say that it is not sufficient. They should give more thought to it and more compensation should be granted to them. Energy should be conducted into the lapses that took place there and responsibility should be fixed on the Central Government and the State Government. This is my demand.

SHRI HARBHAJAN LAKHA (Phillaur) : Mr. Speaker. Sir. we want to say in regard to the report of Ramesh Chand committee. Demonstration is being held outside the Parliament House...*(Interruptions)* We should be given chance to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sarpotdar.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let us finish this one.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We will dispose of this first.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : The hon. Leader of the Opposition and Shri Jaswant Singh has given a notice of Adjournment Motion. I am supporting the Adjournment Motion.

The basic reason being that this is not the new thing that the pilgrims who go to Amarnath have always faced a number of difficulties. This particular problem was discussed in the House and it was assured by the

Government that all necessary arrangements would be done to look after the pilgrims. I really fail to understand that when there is uncertainly of climatic condition. was it not the Government to see that the necessary arrangements for the protection of the pilgrims has been done? Was it not the responsibility of the Government to see that the roads are in good condition. all control rooms and all other necessary arrangements have been made?

On 22nd August, this particular incident took place. I do not know the state of condition today. Shri Indrajit Gupta, our hon. Minister of Home Affairs, has gone there yesterday. I would like to know prior to him how many officers have reached the place. Who is incharge of the operations? Who is incharge of the situation over there?

13.00 hrs.

Who is supposed to pass on the instructions to the Army so that they can immediately take steps for rescue operation? What type of Government is functioning here? When lakhs and lakhs of people are facing tremendous amount of problems and when there is no guarantee of life. under such a situation, if the Government is keeping quiet, I would say it is something absurd. It is beyond imagination. The Governmnet should be functional. The Government should be active. The Government should be in a position to take very prompt decisions. But somehows, we do not see this. I do not know how many pilgrims have already died. We are not aware of the figures. The figures are secondary. But the situation is very important. Who is going to take preventive action? Even today what has the Central Government done to protect the very costly lives of the pilgrims? What have they done? Luckily. hon. Prime Minister is here. My earnest request to the hon. Prime Minister is to find out the facts and take the entire House into confidence and tell us what is the situation prevailing and as to why this entire situation has been allowed to develop. The condition there is horrible. Is it the fault of the people who have rushed to that spot? Should they not go to such pilgrimages? The people go there in lakhs. Was it not the basic responsibility of the Government to provide them all basic amenities? In addition to other arrangements, the Government should have made arrangements to look after their lives as also their transportation. But somehow this Government has miserably failed. So, my humble request to the hon. Speaker is that this Adjournment Motion should be admitted.

Hon. Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev has suggested that there should be a discussion under Rule 193. I entirely oppose it. When will the Government become active? When there is a Censure Motion like this, then only the Government will become more active and they will take cognizance of the situation and at least in future, they will avoid such kind of a situation to develop.

So, again my humble request to the hon. Speaker is that this Adjournment motion should be admitted and discussion should start now. After the discussion. the final result should be made known to all of us as per the procedure laid down.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar) : Mr. Speaker. Sir, such a serious tregedy has occurred for the last three days but no statement has come from the Government so that the people are ensured that the Government is doing something for them. The leader of the opposition wants to bring "Adjournment motion" while others say that this matter should be raised under rule 193 and this issue should not be made political. I would like to ask whether this Government is not formed on political issue? Then what is the reason that such thing is being uttered. When the whole country is shocked over this tragedy. why not this Government had sent the Governor and Chief Secretary back there. The Chief Secretary and the Governor of Kashmir are still staying at Delhi. Whether the Prime Minister of this country and the Home Minister are not responsible for it? the Prime Minister and the Home Minister had been going to Uttar Pradesh on helicopters and holding public meetings but took no much time in asking the Governor of that state and the secretary to go back. I believe that the whole fault lies with the Government.

The hon. Member has just said here that we have told about it earlier. If the Governor is not capable then he should be replaced immediately. We are not ready to hear that this issue is being given a political colour. Whatever issue is raised by the opposition, the Government always say that this issue is being given political colour. Does the political issue not become national issue and does the Government not form on political issue?

I request the Prime Minister through you to inform the House about the action taken there? The dependents of deceased have been given Rs. 50 thousand each. I would like to say that when these people were in opposition. They used to say that the family of deceased should be given Rs. 5 lakh each. I would request the Prime Minister that the dependents of the deceased should be given Rs. 5 lakhs each. The dead bodies should be handed over to their families. There the bodies are being cremated. Unless dead bodies are not handed over the to their families. how will they come to know that their family members has died or is missing. In this matter also the Government has many lapses. The Government is trying to hide the whole issue. All this matter should come in public through adjournment motion. Why Government is shying away from the discussion?

Mr. Speaker. I would like to say that the Government should admit this adjournment motion and have discussion on it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You see, we have not gone into the debate. I think the consensus of the House is that we should have a debate on that. I do not think everybody should speak at this stage. What is the stand of the Government on that?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA): Sir, this is one of the important issues where the entire House is concerned about this tragic event. I would like to make it clear that the Government does not want to suppress any information so far as the action taken either by the State Government or by the Central Government on this tragedy is concerned. Our Home Minister has gone to Jammu and also to that particular place. If weather permits and if it is clear, he will also go near to the Shrine to see the condition and to see if there are some people left over. To know the actual position, we have requested him to go up to the point, i.e. Amarnath Cave, if weather permits. We requested him to go up to that point and study the whole situation and come back today itself.

Sir, today I came to know that in the all-Party leader's meeting, this issue was raised and they have come to a unanimous decision that this issue should be discussed in a threadbare and if there are any lapses in the administration, action should be taken against the concerned people. I would like to make it very clear that there is no hesitation on the part of the Government to take action against any person who has not taken appropriate action at the appropriate time. If the Home Minister comes today itself, he will give a detailed statement on the floor of the House about the entire event and the discussion can be taken up after the Home Minister's statement.

Sir, I have got some information. I do not want to give a piecemeal information. Let me be very plain. What action I have taken or what action the Central Government has taken, what earlier action the State Government has taken, all the information I am going to give it to the House after the Home Minister comes back. So let the discussion be taken as per the decision taken in the all-Party leaders' meeting. This is all what I want to submit at this stage.

MR. SPEAKER : As per the schedule, at what time the Home Minister is expected? Let me know.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Before 5'o clock, he is expected. I am prepared for a threadbare discussion in this House according to the decision taken in the all-Party leaders' meeting.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA (Surendra Nagar) : A large number of peole from Gujarat have gone there. Thousands of Gujaratis have gone there. There is no information available about them. Before the discussion takes place, the Government of India should arrange that in the morning, evening and every time we get the information about those who have gone there. The discussion apart, steps should be taken right from today. We are not getting the information.

MR. SPEAKER : We are going to have a discussion on this. It is not a finality now.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Before discussion, we want information. What arrangements are being made to pass on the information to the relatives? That is the point ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : A number of people from Rajasthan have gone there...*(Interruptions)* What is their condition. This information should be given ...*(Interruptions)* Information should be given on radio and television...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : If you do not allow all those who have given notice and unless the Government hears about the points with regard to the notice and the queries, how will the Home Minister come and reply to the queries? The Home Minister can simply make a *suo motu* statement.

After that statement we cannot seek any clarifications also. That is the rule...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is not so.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : People from all parts of the country are affected. I gave the notice...*(Interruptions)*

I spoke to the Governor. I sent a Fax message to the Chief Secretary. He was sitting all through the night. The Governot did not bother to contact me. Nobody contacted me.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYANARAYAN JATIA (Ujjain) : No information is coming. Their family member are greatly concerned...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : The Home Minister was in Calcutta yesterday morning. I rang him up five times. Every time the reply came that he was busy.

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down now.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : No, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I must say this....*(Interruptions)* How can I show my face to the people of my constituency? There is no justification. This Government is taking it so casually. All sorts of things are happening. People from all over the country are there who are affected by this. The Government is sitting tight...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I would like to clarify ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir. you can throw me out ...*(Interruptions)* Many people died. Their relatives could not contact anyone.

MR. SPEAKER : I understand. Everybody's sentiments are known. The Home Minister is on the spot. Let him come back.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Home Minister should inform what the other measures taken are.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vajpayee is on his legs. Nothing else will go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir. you are noticing how much the sentiments of hon. Members are excited. There is no reason to assume that they are attached with some particular party so they are expressing in such a way. The dividing lines of parties have been erased. There may be difference of opinion what should be the form of discussion but there is no difference of opinion that a great tragedy has struck. The Government has taken it casually in which the administration of Jammu and Kashmir is also involved. The Centre has also not carried out its work with responsibility the way it should have done. Under such circumstances as a member sitting in opposition what is my duty. If we have moved an adjournment motion, the motive behind it is not to earn political gains. This is also a way to have discussion. The members who used to sit with us here, have gone to other side. They also adopted the same method. The notice for this adjournment motion has been given with that aim in mind so that there is discussion on it and we may get the chance to criticize the Government.

The sentiments of Members who took part in the debate are very agitated on this issue. There is anguish and pain in their heart. I don't know which party Shri Chandra Shekharji belong but there was great pain in his voice and he made an appeal. I give importance to his appeal that adjournment motion on this issue should not be taken up.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have been in the opposition. What should the opposition do in such in situation. Still no one is ready from the Government to give reply in details. It is good that the hon. Home Minister has gone there. We are ready to wait till he comes. So I suggest that an adjournment motion may be deferred till tomorrow. We will hear the hon. Home Minister. The Home Minister should make a statement keeping in view the points raised here. If the reply is not satisfactory then again we will press for adjournment motion. I had expected that the Prime Minister would give more details. There is great concern in the country. People got stranded there, are they alive or not, whether they would come back home or not? In which condition they are? Whether the persons who are suffering from cold are being supplied sufficient clothes or not? Whether the train has started or not from Jammu? This has also become a subject of controversy. When the Government have radio. television and mass media facilities then whether it cannot give advance information is case of weather becomes bad? Earlier also 70 to 80 thousand have undertaken this yatra and the arrangement made was Govt. What has happened this time? There are only some more people. About 1.25 lakhs yatris have indertaken the yatra. No doubt, the weather has turned bad but the bad weather also put us to test.

Mr. Speaker. Sir, calamity is of two kinds. One is natural and the other is man made. We have come across both. The weather was not favourable and the Government was unaware. There was no one in Srinagar who would take cognizance of the situation. I do not want to name the officer and criticize him but what type of administration is this? We are supposed not to indulge in politicising here but the Ministers and the Prime Minister of the Government are indulging in politicising...*(Interruptions)* I do not want to touch the issue. It can not be that outside this House everywhere are indulges in politicising and no politicising takes place inside this House because this is big national issue. Which issue is not national issue? Conducting of peaceful elections in U.P. is this not a national issue? What is being done for it? But I do not want to raise it.

I do not mind if my adjournment motion is deferred. It may be kept deferred until the Statement of the Home Minister comes and give a chance to the House to have discussion on it. If we find that the statement is not satisfactory then we will press for the adjournment motion.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Kanshi Ram ji, I have got your notice with me. I am going through it. Let us dispose of this item. I have received your notice. I will go through it.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker. Sir. I would like to request you. Shri Atal ji has given notice for the motion. I do not say that this is not his right or it is unfair. I only submitted that he is within his limits and rights and it is his duty. I do not want to go into it. But just now Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munshi and Shri Sanat Mehta had raised issue that there is no information how many people of their regions have died or are missing. Is the Government not in a position to tell even after 3-4 days how many people of which region have died? Do the Government need four days to give information? The second question is this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, it is right.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : An another question arises. The day chosen by the Home Minister for undertaking this visit was when the session started. he go earlier?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Mr. Speaker. Sir. what about the people who are dead. The people are greatly concerned to know about them. Those people who have been killed...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : After Shri Vajpayee has spoken. I do not think, you need to speak on this.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : No information is coming from there.

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, the Government have informations. If the hon Member and the leader of the opposition want to have it, the Government have no objection. The Prime Minister has all the fact with him. The Prime Minister has stated to the Home Minister to go there and personally study the situation so that all the facts are slaced in right perspective and action taken against those who are found guilty for any lapse. This is not the matter of any party politics, Government and the opposition party. If the hon. Members want immediate debate on it. we have no objection. On behalf of the Government we are prepared to initiate debate on it. The Home Minister will come. We can do like this. In the meeting with leaders of all parties. it was decided unanimously that let the Home Minister come and make a statement and on the basis of that statement a discussion will take place. Shri Jaswant Singhji who is our able friend and a responsible leader of his party was himself present there. It was decided in the meeting that the Members who would like to express their sentiments will be given chance to speak. But it seems as if the Government is being cornered and effort is being made to put it in the dock...*(Interruptions)*. So it depends on the House. We are ready to accept the ruling of the Chair.

Charges have been levelled on the Railway Ministry. As a Minister of Railway Ministry. As a Minister of Railways I say with responsibility that 11 regular trains are running from there. Besides nine special trains are running from there.

SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM' (East-Delhi) : There is no train running. He is telling a lie and misleading the House. I have facts. Not a single train is running.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : They are not going to help.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : There is no space for trains at Jammu Station so one train has been stationed at Jammu. two at Sambha, two at Pathankot. there at Amritsar and one at Jallandhar.

SHRI CHAMANLAL GUPTA : No train has started from Jammu.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Please listen to what I am saying. Nine special trains are ready besides regular trains. Three trains have arrived from there due to lack of passengers....*(Interruptions)* Shri Harin Pathak is not present here. He rang up me. He told me that all the trains are coming from Jammu to Delhi. The passengers want to go to different parts of the country from Jammu. I asked him for which place he wants train. He told me that they want one train for Ahmedabad. I was told that as per arrangement trains were coming from Jammu to Delhi. Passengers can go anywhere they like from Delhi. He alleged that passengers are being charged railway fare for the ticket. I would like to say that I instructed my senior officers that as the matter is of tragedy. So if anyone wants to go in the special trains can do so free and as a Minister of Railways I can say that if any one wants to go from Delhi to any part of the country he can do so without purchasing tickets. This is an humantarian approach. If anyone does not want to come to Delhi and wants to go somewhere else. So I instructed to run trains for that area. A Central room has been set up there. Special assistance booth has also been set up. It was announced in the morning on T.V. and on the radio also. We have done whatever arrangement we can make.

You have been in the Government and Members of every party have also been in the Government. It becomes very easy to level charges. So I say with responsibility that the Government is committed to it if you want, you can have discussion now and if you want discussion after the arrival of the Home Minister. you can also do so. The Government is always ready to agree with your decision. But this dharna is unfortunate. The Government is as much worried as you are ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SATYANARAYANA JATIYA : What steps the Government is taking to give information regarding those persons who have died?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. I am on my legs.

I think the understanding in all-party meeting was that the Home Minister will make a statement today if he is able to come back. So. I will postpone this matter. We will take up this issue again at 5 o'clock. If the Home Minister comes back by that time, let the Home Minister give a full statement. Supposing the Home Minister is not able to reach here because of weather conditions, I would like the Government to make a statement on the basis of whatever information they have got because something is better. The Prime Minister has said that he has some information with

him. So, if the Home Minister does not come by 5 o'clock, whatever information the Government has got can be given to the House. Therefore, this matter will be taken up at 5 o'clock.

The House now stands adjourned for lunch till 2.25 p.m.

13.26 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Twenty Five Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.30 hrs.

Lok Sabha reassembled after Lunch at Thirty Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker *in the* Chair)

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra) : Sir, some friends and a political party have held a demonstration outside Parliament House today. I had raised a matter regarding the matter in which Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and his party cultivists had conspired to murder Kumari Mayawati who was staying in the Lucknow guest House. At the time when the recommendations of Ramesh Chandra Committee were out, you had given a ruling on it that the recommendations of the Ramesh Chandra Committee will be laid on the floor of the House. It is said in the report that an investigation by the CBI and CID should be got conducted. The CID has conducted investigation of the report and found Shri Mulayam Yadav and Beni Prasad Yadav guilty in criminal conspiracy and preparing forged documents. Charge sheets have been filed in the court. Not only this they approached High Court to get it quashed. The court cancelled the appeal. High Court directed them to be present in the court but they are not appearing. Regarding Ramesh Chandra Committee report, the Prime Minister has said in Lucknow that such report has no value.

Sir, I would like to say that one Sukhram already exists and now another Sukhram is being created. This is not proper to manipulate corruption and criminals.

Sir, lakhs of people have held demonstration and a notice was also given. My submission is that a report may be presented and action taken on it.

14.31 hrs.

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, we take up Motions for Elections to Committees.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Sit down, please. I am on item No. 9 now.

CENTRAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL CADET CORPS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, I beg to move :

> "That in pursuance of Section 12 (1) (i) of the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as Members of the Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps for a term of one year from the date of election, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

> "That in pursuance of Section 12 (1) (i) of the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as Members of the Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps for a term of one year from the date of election, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted

14.33 hrs.

GENERAL COUNCIL OF INDIAN SCHOOL OF MINES, DHANBAD

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): Sir, on behalf of Shri S.R. Bommai, I beg to move :

> "That in pursuance of the provisions contained in clauses (ii) to (iv) of rule 4 read with clause (3) of rule 15 of the Rules and Regulations of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves, to serve as Members of the General Council of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, subject to other provisions of the said Rules and Regulations."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

> "That in pursuance of the provisions contained in clauses (ii) to (iv) of rule 4 read with clause (3) of rule 15 of the Rules and Regulations of the Indian School of Mines,